

Moniz-Carroll, Rhonda

From: Michael Freda <Freda.Michael@town.north-haven.ct.us>
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2015 12:16 PM
To: JudTestimony
Subject: Michael Freda Testimony on HB 6187 and SB 1128

Dear Co-Chair Tong and Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

My name is Michael Freda and I am North Haven's First Selectman/CEO . I also serve as Co-Chair of the State Task Force on Animal Welfare and Chairman of the South Central Council of Governments.

Please accept this written testimony in support of HB 6187, which establishes a process for appointing an advocate for an animal that is the subject of a criminal court proceeding. This bill would help to facilitate animal cruelty prosecutions by ensuring that there is appropriate representation for the victims.

I am also in support of SB 1128 which would prevent people who have been charged with committing animal abuse from using or qualifying for accelerated rehabilitation. I feel strongly that SB 1128 will help to ensure that any violence demonstrated towards animals is taken very seriously and will promote severe penalties on those who abuse animals. This bill will also help to establish a record of these crimes of animal abuse for those who are responsible for causing animals to suffer. One of the initiatives of our Task Force on Animal Welfare is to also develop a system to track animal abusers.

In my role as a Municipal Leader, I have also seen a direct link between the abuse of animals and both child abuse and domestic violence. These insidious forms of behavior are all directly linked. Additionally, I serve as North Haven's Executive Director of our Substance Abuse Council and there are now studies that suggest that animal abusers are also linked to property crimes and drug offenses. I hope that you will consider supporting these two very important bills.

Thank you taking the time to consider this testimony.

Sincerely,
Michael J. Freda
North Haven Memorial Town Hall

Re:
SUPPORT of HB 6187, AN ACT CONCERNING COURT PROCEEDINGS AND THE PROTECTION OF ANIMALS
and
SUPPORT of SB 1128, AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OF ACCELERATED REHABILITATION IN THE CASE OF ANIMAL
ABUSE

Dear Co-Chair Coleman, Co-Chair Tong, and Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

My name is Michael Freda and I am North Haven's Chief Elected Official and also

Please accept this testimony in SUPPORT of HB 6187, which would establish a process for appointing an advocate for an animal that is the subject of a criminal court proceeding, and in SUPPORT of SB 1128, which would prevent persons charged with committing animal abuse from using accelerated rehabilitation.

HB 6187 will help to facilitate animal cruelty prosecutions by ensuring appropriate representation for the victims.

SB 1128 will help to ensure that violence toward animals is taken seriously and promotes appropriately severe penalties as well as a record of these crimes in cases where people are responsible for causing animals to suffer.